



*Weiss* Action complaint, hereinafter referred to as “the Amended *Weiss* Complaint”). NatWest’s counsel shall accept service of the Amended *Weiss* Complaint, and no later than two (2) business days after service of the Amended *Weiss* Complaint, counsel for the *Faudem* plaintiffs shall file a voluntary dismissal of that action in favor of the *Weiss* Action; thereafter, the *Faudem* Action docket number (07-CV-1775) will no longer be used. NatWest shall answer the Amended *Weiss* Complaint within no more than thirty (30) days of service of the same.

2. For the purposes of all defenses related to the timing of the filing of the *Faudem* Action, including, but not limited to, all defenses related to statutes of limitation, statutes of repose, estoppel and laches, the claims of the *Faudem* Action Plaintiffs shall be treated as having been filed on the date of the filing of the *Faudem* Action. The parties further stipulate and agree that this Stipulation shall not provide NatWest with any defense related to the *Faudem* Action Plaintiffs that NatWest would not have possessed had such Plaintiffs remained as plaintiffs in the *Faudem* Action. It is further agreed that this Stipulation shall not deprive NatWest of any potential defense to the claims asserted by the *Faudem* Plaintiffs, except as expressly stated herein.

3. The parties hereby stipulate and agree that, barring further written amendment to this Stipulation and Order as approved by the Court, no party shall seek to consolidate the *Weiss* Action with the *Applebaum* Action pursuant to Rule 42(a), the Manual for Complex Litigation, or any other Federal Rule of Civil Procedure or Local Rule of practice. The parties further agree and stipulate that, for pre-trial purposes only, they will endeavor to coordinate the *Weiss* Action with the *Applebaum* Action. Non-exclusive examples of such coordination will include serving upon all counsel notices of depositions for: (a) any witnesses noticed by the *Weiss* or *Applebaum* plaintiffs; (b) depositions of actual *Weiss* and *Applebaum* plaintiffs; and (c) any other further

notices, motions, and other filings relating to discovery that the parties in good faith believe are applicable to all cases.

4. Separate dockets will be maintained for the *Weiss* and *Applebaum* Actions, and entries must be made in accordance with the regular procedures of the clerk of this Court.

5. This Stipulation and Order shall apply to any related case subsequently filed with or transferred to this Court, unless a party objecting to the coordination of such case, or to any other provision of this Order, within 15 days after the date upon which a copy of this Order is mailed to counsel for such party, files an application for relief from this Order, or any provision in this Order, and this Court deems it appropriate to grant such application.

**Communications Between Plaintiffs' Counsel**

6. All communications between *Weiss* and *Applebaum* counsel, and/or communications by *Weiss* or *Applebaum* counsel with any plaintiff, shall be deemed to be embraced by the attorney-client privilege and/or work product doctrine, if the privilege or doctrine is otherwise applicable, and all of said persons shall maintain the confidentiality of said communications. The parties also agree and stipulate that any communications by and among any plaintiffs in *Applebaum* or *Weiss* in connection with the litigation will be deemed attorney-client privileged regardless of the presence of counsel.

**Document Production**

7. *Discovery Materials*: Discovery materials produced in this litigation by the *Weiss* plaintiffs or the *Applebaum* plaintiffs that are designated by either group as “confidential” or “highly confidential” pursuant to the protective orders in place in these cases shall not be produced to the other plaintiff group by the Defendant and neither the *Weiss* plaintiffs nor the *Applebaum* plaintiffs shall be obligated to produce such materials to each other absent

certification by the other party that it will bear an equal share of any costs related to the acquisition or production of the relevant records.

8. *Investigative Materials:* All plaintiffs shall make a good faith effort to resolve the cost-sharing issues relevant to independent investigative materials. However, the Court recognizes that the plaintiff groups each have their own litigation strategies and may have divergent views on the advisability of incurring certain costs. Therefore, investigative materials gathered by individual counsel in the course of their independent case investigations that do not constitute attorney work product and are produced to the Defendants will be shared with those wishing to access the information only under a cost-sharing agreement to be mutually agreed upon by plaintiffs' counsel. Otherwise, they will be deemed presumptively confidential.

9. *Translations:* The cost of translating documents to be used in these cases will be shared by all parties who use or benefit from the use of such translations.

10. *Expert Witnesses:* Whenever expert witness testimony or reports are to be presented to the Court regarding a matter before the Court, the Court encourages the Plaintiffs to present the Court with joint experts. The Plaintiffs shall share the fees of any such experts equally. Otherwise, both expert reports and expert testimony will be deemed presumptively confidential and proprietary to the cases for which the expert was retained.

### **Motions and Briefs**

11. Except where issues uniquely applicable to cases involving one plaintiff group arise, the parties will coordinate all briefing schedules and file all motions and related briefs in all cases on coordinated schedules. To the extent the Defendant continues to be represented by the same counsel, it will be entitled to address particular issues to particular cases, but will incorporate all of its arguments into unified briefs. The Plaintiffs shall make a good faith effort

to respond to any motions by the Defendant in a coordinated fashion so as to avoid duplicative arguments. To the extent that plaintiffs' counsel cannot agree on joint submissions or wish to make non-duplicative arguments or brief issues not raised in any joint submission, they should identify those arguments in any supplemental brief and incorporate all other arguments, to the extent possible, by reference. In the event that counsel for one plaintiff group or another wish to rely on submissions filed by the other plaintiff group in lieu of filing a joint submission, the plaintiff group wishing to rely on that submission shall reimburse the other plaintiff group for its reasonable fees and expenses in preparing the submission.

### **Depositions**

12. Defendant's depositions, if any, of plaintiffs in *Weiss* need not be coordinated with those of the *Applebaum* plaintiffs. However counsel for all parties shall be notified and invited to attend the deposition of any plaintiff. The default allowance of time for each of the two plaintiff groups to depose Defendant's officers and employees will be five (5) hours each, although the plaintiff groups are permitted to divide their respective time allocations differently if they so agree. If either plaintiff group wishes to introduce documents during the deposition of a Defendant's officer or employee or any third party witness that are proprietary and confidential to said plaintiff group, counsel taking the deposition for that group must inform all parties at least 72 hours before the scheduled date of the deposition if he/she wants to designate a portion of the deposition and the accompanying transcript confidential and exclude the participation of any other plaintiffs' counsel from a portion of the deposition if such counsel are not, pursuant to this Order, entitled to access to these documents (not to exceed 2 hours).

### **Further Scheduling Orders**

13. To the extent possible, the *Weiss* and *Applebaum* plaintiffs shall coordinate the

timing of depositions of Defendant's officers and employees and other discovery requests, but recognizing that independent investigations have been undertaken by the *Weiss* and *Applebaum* plaintiffs' counsel, and that the two plaintiffs' groups may retain separate experts and/or pursue different litigation strategies, the Court will reserve decision regarding the advisability of coordinating the remainder of the schedule for pre-trial discovery and any future summary judgment motions.

SO ORDERED

Dated: December \_\_, 2007  
Brooklyn, New York

---

KIYO A. MATSUMOTO  
United States Magistrate Judge